

# Woodlawn Chapel Gospel Service Ushers Ministry

## April 2009

*For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. Psalm 84:10*

Ministry Leadership:  
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### Ministry Inspiration Scripture

Let your light so shine before men so that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

### Ministry Mission Statement/Affirmation

We give all glory and honor to God for hearing our prayers to increase this Ministry, not just in numbers, but also in power to do great things to honor Him. We thank God that we have a praying Ministry and He has found favor in our service. We promise to pray for one another and encourage each other to be one of God's Super Servants. As Ushers and Greeters, our light must always shine in the way we welcome saints into our house of worship. We realize that the first impression of God's ministry of service is the Church Greeters/Ushers.

## Ushers Ministry History

The Ushers Ministry began at the inception of the Fort Belvoir Gospel Service on April 3, 1993. Reverend (later Chaplain) Alonzo Ford borrowed the Ushers from his home church, First Mount Zion, in Dumfries, VA, under the leadership of Brother Alexander.

Brother Alexander was committed to the Ushers Ministry until Brother Mason; a member of the Gospel Service organized several members and established this Ushers Ministry. Upon Brother Mason's reassignment, Sister Brenda Graham became the lead Usher. The original Ushers Ministry was established mostly with the youth of the congregation who were eager to volunteer each Sunday.

In 1995, the Army reassigned Sister Graham to Fort Jackson, SC; Sister Knight then filled the position. Upon Chaplain Jordan's assignment as Pastor of the Gospel Service, he felt that the adults should be more involved and provide some relief to the youth Ushers who were also singing in the choir and ushering on some Sundays. Sister Knight's departure left the Lead Usher position vacant for a short period of time, but later filled by an experienced Usher Leader, Sister Kathy Odom. The ministry continued to increase size and spirit with prayer, training and strong commitments from the adult members.

Sister Betty Frederick assumed the leadership position after Sister Odom departed for Korea. The ministry continued to grow, but also met with many challenges as the service ministry programs expanded with revivals, Joy Night and Watch-night services, outreach efforts, Christmas and Easter performances, increased membership as high as 350 during this growth spurt, which caused the service to re-locate to Woods Theater, and stretched the Ushers Ministry.

Upon the departure of Sister Betty Frederick in 1997, Chaplain Jordan appointed Sister Rita Williams as the President of the Ushers Ministry. Sister Williams served faithfully until 2009. Under the leadership of Sister Williams, the Ushers Ministry has grown in spirit, training, and faithfulness to the position God has placed each of us in. The spirit of the Lord is at work in this Ministry, as He has allowed the Ministry's membership to stabilize over the past 5 years, with approximately half of the adult ushers having served since 1996. God has continued to show favor to this Ministry by blessing us with a full team of men Ushers, and the re-establishment of the Youth Usher Ministry in January of 2003, with their solo service on March 30th. In July of 2004, our first Annual Retreat was held, and in August was the first Youth Ushers Seminar. Our motto is a testimony of the establishment and perseverance of this ministry, as we thank God for the increase.

In 2009, Brother Calvin Brown took over as President of the Ushers Ministry.

### Greeters' Ministry History

In 2005 the Greeters' Ministry, lead by Sister Sharon McNeil, was placed under the Usher Ministry. The Greeters' Ministry was originally established as separate Ministry under the direction of the Worship Ministry in 1999, and functioned as Chaplain's Aides responsible for identifying new members of the Gospel Service, and to keep administrative record of church members. We greet visitors and members; distribute programs; Chapel newsletters, and other Gospel Service printed announcements and programs.

The motto for the Greeters' Ministry is that all who enter the Gospel Service are greeted with a holy embrace, hug or kiss, (Roman 16:16 paraphrased). The Greeters are also attuned to the needs of the people of God and assist with getting those who need immediate prayer identified to the Chaplain or Intercessory Prayer Team Leader.

As our church body has grown and we have matured in our ministry areas and it is because of that that Chaplain Alleyne directed the Greeters' Ministry to combine under the auspices of the usher ministry as we were both ushering in the spirit of love and fellowship into the Gospel Service. The Greeters' Ministry continues to thrive and is an effective part of our service every Sunday.

#### Membership pre-requisites:

Ushers and Greeters are required to be ten (10) years, or older for the youth. We also must be prayerful, courteous, alert, prompt, courageous, discipline, love the people of God at all times and above all a Christian. We are always glad when God sends fellow Christians to work with some of His most dedicated servants. Greeters are required to be appropriately dressed and able to greet worshippers into the service in the spirit of love.

#### Our Ministry:

The Ushers Ministry is currently comprised of 30 members; and the Greeters Ministry is currently six members strong, with some members serving in both Ushers and Greeter Ministries. Most are currently blessed to serve only one Sunday a month and be able to join in service. Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday immediately following church service. We always open in prayer and have an agenda. Lunch is normally provided before meeting/training sessions. Administrative issues are discussed first. Ushers then report to the Sanctuary to practice signs, signals and positions for Service. The procedures for Offering and Communion are also demonstrated. Training is to familiarize new Ushers and refresh current Ushers with Ushers Ministry procedures, signs, signals, and spirit. Issues and concerns are discussed at that time. All Youth Ushers are partnered with an adult usher mentor. We are actively involved in outreach and hospitality missions. During 2008 and 2009, we collected and donated warm weather accessories, school supplies and toiletries in support of several shelters in and around the Fort Belvoir area including the Route 1 Corridor and Woodbridge areas. We visited the Family

Homeless Shelter and served Valentine Day's meals for twenty-five (25) residents of the Volunteer of America Homeless Shelter in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Current focus:

We are grateful and obedient servants welcoming God's people with a spiritual purpose. We do God's work through showing love one to another. We trust in the Lord and do well, that whatever we do will be pleasing in His sight. We are challenged to seek the heart of God in serving and allowing God to manifest Himself in us daily as we strive for more ways to show love to His people. We recognize that the ministry of an Usher or Greeter brings glory to God as we follow God's lead to greet one another with a holy kiss, 2 Corinthians 13:12. Our Scripture theme for 2009 is John 12:26 "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor." It is our prayer that we will serve in Christ Jesus throughout 2009, so we may serve those whom are lost and draw others to Christ through our service.

Upcoming events over the next six months – Calendar Year 2009:

Usher Training meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday monthly - immediately following church service

Fellowship Cook Out: 6 June 2009

Ushers/Greeters Retreat: August 21-23 2009

Outreach:

Toiletries Drive: April - June 2009

School Supplies Drive: July - August 2009